



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NEW CARPOOL LANE OPENS ON ROUTE 14 IN PALMDALE

PALMDALE – A mere 14 months after its official groundbreaking ceremony, the 6.2 mile, \$41 million High Occupancy Vehicle (HOV, or carpool) lane on the Antelope Valley Freeway (Route 14) from Mountain Springs Road to Avenue P-8 opened to traffic today.

The new lanes comprise the final phase of a five-stage project that began in 1996 at the Highway 126 junction. With the completion of this phase, carpool lanes now run continuously for 36 miles from Santa Clarita to Palmdale. Cost of the entire project is \$153 million.

“North County motorists can ride in comfort, saving up to one minute per mile in the carpool lane during peak hours,” said Raja Mitwasi, Caltrans Chief Deputy Director for Los Angeles and Ventura Counties. “Caltrans is committed to developing transportation options that are based on moving people rather than vehicles.”

The High Occupancy Vehicle (“HOV”) lane program is a cooperative effort between the Caltrans and the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (Metro), and is funded through a combination of federal, state and local resources.

“Metro is committed to working with Caltrans to expand the High Occupancy Vehicle lane network in Palmdale and throughout Los Angeles County,” said Metro Board and Glendale City Council member Ara Najarian.

California leads the nation in carpool lane miles. In Los Angeles County, there are 440 lane miles of HOV facilities, approximately 35 percent of the total 1236 HOV lane miles in the State. HOV lanes in Los Angeles County carry close to 725,000 people per day.

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